

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 EB-11 SAJ-01 CU-04

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 AGR-20 SP-03 AID-20 CIEP-02 STR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6872

USDOC WASHDC

US TREASURY

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DENT) PFOR, EGEN, BU, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DR. POPOV TO US

BURSELS FOR SECRETARY DENT'S PARTY

REF: SOFIA (HIGHLIGHTS OF DENT VISIT)

1. FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER NEDEV IN THE FIRST MEETING WITH SECRETARY DENT RAISED, IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, THE QUESTION OF DEPUTY PRIMER POPOV'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. BECAUSE IT WAS VERY CLEAR THE POPOV VISIT WAS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR HIS BULGARIAN HOSTS, SECRETARY DENT, FOLLOWING THE USUAL PLEASANTRIES, BROUGHT IT UP IN HIS MEETING WITH POPOV LATER THAT DAY.

2. THE SECRETARY OPENED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING HE LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING POPOV IN THE UNITED STATES BUT ADDED THAT HE HOPED POPOV WOULD NOT MAKE HIS VISIT DEPENDENT UPON THE SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT  
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WITH THE TRADE BILL PENDING AND THE TIME FOR NEGOTIATING

AGREEMENTS UNCERTAIN, HE BELIEVED THE TRIP SHOULD RATHER FOCUS ON DISCUSSIONS WITH HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL AND BANKING CIRCLES.

3. POPOV RESPONDED BY SAYING HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS TRIP BUT FELT IT NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING "TANGIBLE" DURING THE VISIT, I.E. SIGN AGREEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING A TRADE AGREEMENT BUT COULD SEE NO OBSTACLES TO SIGNING SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AND AGREICULTURAL AGREEMENTS.

4. AT SECRETARY'S INVITATION, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE EXPLAINED THAT WE LOOK AT EXCHANGES NOT AS NARROW AREA ONLY FOR SPECIALISTS BUT AS BROAD AREA INCLUDING ALSO FOR INSTANCE CULTURAL MATTERS. POPOV SAID THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY COVERING CULTURAL COOPERATION AS WELL. HE DID NOT SEE WHY SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT NEED GIVE US ANY DIFFICULTY SINCE THAT DRAFT WOULD BE CLOSELY PATTERNED AFTER AGREEMENT WE HAD SIGNED WITH THE USSR.

5. THE SECRETARY REITERATED THE UNCERTAINTY OF BEING READY TO SIGN AGREEMENTS AND ASKED IF POPOV FELT THE SIGNING OF THE US-BULGARIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE JOINT COUNCIL AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION ON THE MECHANICS OF EXTABLISHING THE COUNCIL, POPOV REPLIED THAT A SUITABLE PROGRAM WOULD, IN ADDITION TO SIGNING AGREEMENTS, INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH EXECUTIVES OF US FIRMS DOING BUSINESS AND WISHING TO WITH BULGARIA, BANKERS AND, OF COURSE, GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

6. THE SECRETARY THEN ASKED ABOUT TIMING AND POPOV SAID HE PREFERRED LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. THE SECRETARY AVOIDED ANY COMMITMENT ON TIMING. HE CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY AGAIN STATING THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE POPOV IN WASHINGTON AND WOULD SEE IF A SUITABLE PROGRAM COULD BE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE TIME FRAME GIVEN.

7. COMMENT: A) THE TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF THE POPOV VISIT REMAIN OPEN FOR FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED BUT THE  
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BULGARS MAY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IN PRINCIPLE THE VISIT IS MORE OR LESS SET. HOWEVER, THE FINAL DECISION ON BOTH SIDES WILL CERTAINLY BE DEPENDENT ON THE TIMING AND TYPE OF SCHEDULE WE ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP. B) THE BULGARS WILL BE PRESENTING DRAFT AGREEMENTS ON TECHNICAL/SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION.  
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